

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 are pending in the application. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 13 and 14 are newly presented. The basis for the amendment and support for the new claims can be found throughout the application, claims and drawings as originally filed and as such no new matter has been presented. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 3-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Ando (U.S. Pat. No. 4,346,581, hereinafter "Ando"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that claim 1 has been amended to further clarify the method claimed by including the features of the upper surface of the first portion of the die and the head of the punch having a lower surface thereon, as well as the interaction between the two surfaces. Claim 1 now specifies that the lower surface of the punch head is limited from advancing beyond the upper surface of the die as a result of contact between the two surfaces. In Ando, it does not appear that the punch is limited in its advancement by direct contact between the punch and the die. The amendment to claim 1 also clarifies that this contact between the upper surface of the first portion of the die and the lower surface of the punch head provides for a predetermined axial length of the head portion of the receiver tube. In Ando, the axial

length of a first portion of the receiver tube does not appear to be predetermined in the same manner. Therefore, claim 1 should be in condition for allowance.

Applicants note that claims 3-10 depend from claim 1 and as such, applicants submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando in view of Marquardt (U.S. Pat. No. 5,203,194). Claims 11 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ando in view of Squires (U.S. Pat. No. 1,966,053). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that claims 2, 11 and 12 depend from claim 1 and as such, applicants submit that these claims are also in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above.

NEW CLAIMS

Applicants have added claims 13 and 14 to the application as new claims. Claim 13 further describes the positioning of the hollow tube on the punch before and after a part is formed. Claim 14 includes greater detail regarding the forming of the inner and outer surfaces of the hollow tube. Applicants note that claims 13 and 14 depend from claim 1 and as such, applicants submit that these claims are in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth above regarding claim 1, as well as for the additional features included in claims 13 and 14.

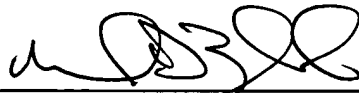
CONCLUSION


It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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